

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): An absorbing element having adhesive properties comprising hydrocolloids in an elastomeric matrix wherein at least a part of a first facade of the absorbing element comprises grottos of at least 5µm in diameter and the average size of the grottos is less than 300µm.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the absorbing element.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the grottos are obtained by heating the absorbing element.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the absorbing element is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the first facade is adapted for releasable adhesion to skin.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the hydrocolloids are selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring hydrocolloids such as guar gum, locust bean gum, pectin, alginates, gelatine, xanthan or karaya gum; semisynthetic hydrocolloids such as cellulose derivatives, e.g. salts of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium starch glycollate;

microcolloids; and synthetic hydrocolloids such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol or certain polyacrylates.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the elastomeric matrix is self adhesive.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the elastomeric matrix is a rubbery elastomeric base.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the elastomeric matrix is of material that do not flow at room temperature.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the grottos are obtained by heat treatment of the part of the first facade of the absorbing element with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of more than 400nm.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the first facade with an infrared laser.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An absorbing element according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the average size of the grottos is less than 200µm, such as less than 100µm.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An adhesive element as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, said adhesive element being

adapted to form part of a medical device, such as an ostomy body side member or a wound care dressing.

Claim 14 (original): A method of producing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer comprising at least a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties and at least one second zone having a second surface constituting at least a part of the adhesive surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties, wherein material as present in the second surface is obtainable by a heat treatment of material in the first surface, said material comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer,
- selecting a heat source,
- locating the adhesive layer and the heat source in a relationship enabling a heat treatment of the second surface of the adhesive layer, and
- heat treating the second surface with the selected heat source for a sufficient time for obtaining the second set of properties.

Claim 15 (original): A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heat treatment comprises contact heating or convection heating.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~any of claims 14-15~~, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the second surface with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength above 400nm.

Claim 17 (original): A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the

irradiation comprises irradiation with a laser or a polychromatic lamp.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~any of claims 14-17~~, wherein the heat treatment is performed using a mask for protecting parts of the surface to be less treated, said mask covering a part of the surface layer.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~any of claims 14-18~~, wherein the heat treatment is performed progressively such that the heat treatment of a first portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer is delayed compared to the heat treatment of second portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~any of claims 14-19~~, wherein the heat treatment comprises writing a pattern on the surface of the adhesive layer with an infrared laser.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~any of claims 14-20~~, wherein the heat treatment is performed through a liner in contact with the adhesive layer.